

# K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

November 2003

A publication of the Kensington Community Council

Volume 60 Number 9

## School district pushes parcel tax to ease squeeze

*Tax could raise up to \$20 million for the district, but needs two-thirds majority to pass.*

The West Contra Costa Unified School District is working to build support for a parcel tax that could raise between \$10 million and \$20 million for the financially ailing district.

Promoters of the measure believe they could get the issue on the ballot for the March 2004 election.

With projections of as much as a \$20 million shortfall for the next fiscal year, the tax could minimize the pain to the district from its ongoing budget woes.

Though details of the proposed parcel tax are still being worked out, school board

member George Harris III recently told a district parent group that the tax would likely be based on a per-cent charge to the square footage of residential and commercial structures.

The district is considering seeking between 9 cents and 18 cents a square foot for residential property and between 18 cents and 36 cents a square foot for commercial property.

"We don't think it will solve all our problems," Harris said at a meeting at the Richmond Library of the West County Parents, a school district activist group. "I know it will help mitigate against what we speculate will be another bad year for education finance."

Harris said one reason the district faces more severe financial problems than many neighboring jurisdictions such as Albany and

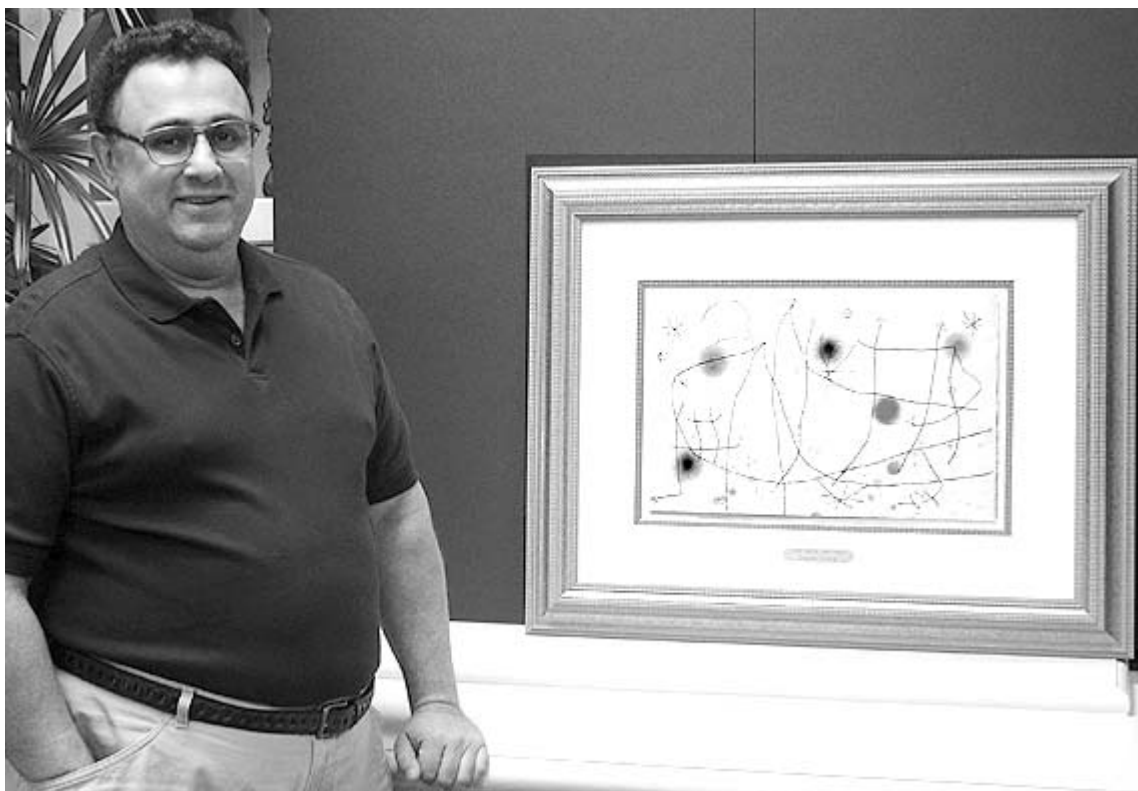
Berkeley is that those districts passed parcel taxes. The last effort to pass a parcel tax came in the early 1990s when the district went bankrupt, but it could not muster the two-thirds vote needed to pass.

Harris acknowledges that building enough support for the tax will be a challenge. In addition to the reluctance district residents might have about taxing themselves, many attending Harris' presentation wanted to know what assurances would be made that the money will be used in the classroom and not for administrators and consultants.

The school district has been holding meetings to reach out to community members to get ideas on how to structure a parcel tax that will win wide support. The district is also soliciting ideas online at its suggestion box at [www.wccusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us).



Taxing issue: board member George Harris III



**MIRO, MIRO ON THE WALL:** Art dealer Alex Adelman of Masterworks Fine Art Inc. stands by the work of artist Joan Miro. Since 1998, donations of art to the Kensington Education Foundation from Adelman raised more than \$45,000 for the programs at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. This year Adelman is contributing several works including pieces by Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Joan Miro, Kathé Kollwitz, Marcoantonio Raimondi, Georges Braque and James Abbott Whistler. The works will be auctioned at the Garden Party November 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington.

## Fine art for a fine cause

At a time when school districts are slashing their curricula, students in Kensington enjoy courses in such areas as art thanks to the likes of Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall and Alex Adelman.

Adelman, an art dealer who runs the online Masterworks Fine Arts Inc., has donated works of art to the Kensington Education Foundation's Garden Party auction since 1998. In four years, those donations raised more than \$45,000 for the school to support art, science, computer and other programs.

Despite moving out of Kensington and not having children, Adelman continues to donate works of art to support the elementary school.

"I still have roots in the community. I still have friends in the community," he said. "I've always believed the first priority in any community has to do with education."

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Garden Party, an annual fundraising event that combines food, drink, live music and both a silent and live auction. For many in the community, the gala rep-

*see gala page 4*

## Ordinance revised in response to town hall meeting

Supervisor John Gioia is making revisions to a proposed Kensington planning ordinance in response to concerns raised at a town hall meeting in September.

The ordinance is designed to protect property owners' views, light and privacy from construction of additions, remodels and new homes on neighboring properties.

The ordinance is being rewritten to establish a single standard for developed parcels and vacant lots. The change is intended to make clear that view and access issues will be considered on developments on vacant lots, but will not be prohibited.

"Somebody who lives next door to a

vacant lot does not have the right to an unfettered view over that lot," said Gioia. "There's a reasonable expectation that there will be a home that is compatible with the neighborhood."

The other change relates to language in the "purpose and intent" section of the ordinance. Rather than saying the ordinance is designed to prevent new development from "impairing the value and enjoyment" of neighbors' property to "protects the value" of neighbors' property.

"People believe that anything you do will impair value so they are afraid they can't do anything," said Gioia. "That's never been

the intent of this ordinance."

Gioia is now working Kensington community groups to secure an estimated \$27,000 needed to cover the cost to conduct an environmental review and amend the county's general plan for the ordinance.

Gioia has also upped his estimate of the county's possible financial contribution to a range of \$7,000 to \$15,000. He also believes has a commitment from the Kensington Property Owners Association for \$5,000 if others will match it.

He expects the study to take nine months and the ordinance to pass in the second half of 2004.

## Tauscher to Speak



Rep. Ellen Tauscher headlines the list of speakers at the Kensington Improvement Club's town hall meeting Nov. 1 at the Kensington Community Center at 10 a.m.



Letters to the Editor



Squeeze Play: 67 bus on route in Kensington

Wrong bus for the job

To the editor:

The problem with the large buses is not “perception,” as AC Transit officials claim - our narrow, hilly streets cannot safely accommodate the longer and wider vehicles. This has been demonstrated repeatedly in the past few months, including an incident in mid-October in which a bus came so close to hitting a parked car on Trinity Ave. that the street had to be closed during the morning commute hours while transit officials extricated the vehicles. Moreover, diesel fumes are a known health hazard. The fact that large buses operated here many years ago does not automatically make it acceptable today. Many past practices, such as lead in gasoline and asbestos in schools, turned out to be unsafe. This dangerous situation must be stopped.

More than 80 Kensington residents have signed a petition against the use of the large diesel buses in our neighborhood. We are not trying to stop the bus. We simply want AC Transit to use appropriate equipment that preserves our health, safety and quality of life.

Cheryl Katz  
Beth Gorelick  
Diane Egelston  
and Kensington Neighbors for Better Bus Service

AC Transit numbers misleading

Following August’s meeting at the Kensington Community Center, it became apparent to some riders that the ridership statistics cited by the representatives of A.C. Transit were wrong and contributing to misleading conclusions and inappropriate decisions regarding the 67 line. After hearing ridership as being between 35 and 150 per day, several riders decided to do their own audit of the bus and see what they came up with.

The AC Riders Audit Group was formed and the first audits for Thursday, October 9 are in. For the period of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the 27 daily runs of the 67 there were 321 boarding’s of the bus.

I called AC Transit and asked about the numbers and the discrepancies and was told AC Transit had not had an audit of that line for 8 years. Instead, it used a standard multiplier of 3 to determine how many people a line is actually serving.

As it is now configured, the 67 eliminates over 300 daily car trips with the benefits of cleaner air and less community traffic. That’s over 1500 per week, over 78,000 per year.

Mike Jordan  
Contact the AC Riders Audit Group at  
ballgame@transbay.net

*Some people wrote this month to express concerns about the proposed planning ordinance discussed at a recent town hall meeting called by supervisor John Gioia. The legislation is designed to protect homeowners from the loss of views, light and privacy when additions or new homes are constructed near their property,*

Put the ordinance to a vote

To the Editor:

I agree with those at the meeting who called for a communitywide vote.

The original draft was prepared by a small group of activists. The revisions of the Ordinance were made by Supervisor Gioia. The questionnaire was prepared by Supervisor Gioia, and the Board of Supervisors will go along with what Supervisor Gioia recommends.

Where is any independent analysis of this Ordinance? Many individuals in Kensington want a debate on this Ordinance plus a communitywide vote. Supervisor Gioia should not disappoint Kensington voters.

J. David Hertzner

We need to get it right

To the Editor:

The problem with the proposed zoning ordinance (draft 8/11/03) is that it, like all previous versions, is a preconceived, single issue document insisting on the protection of the view, light, and privacy of some homeowners.

Attempting to overlay our fully built, dense urban community of varying sized homes with this requirement is obviously difficult and after three years and a dozen drafts success has not been found.

In many instances, such protections can only be achieved by abridging the rights of other owners in adding improvements to their homes that are fully complying and compatible with those already enjoyed by neighbors. Required abridging of such rights, by ordinance, is obviously wrong and grossly unfair. In practice, it will mainly impact owners of smaller homes needing additional space for children, elderly parents or other such purposes.

Aside from the ugly aspect of the county effectively depriving homeowners of their right to improve their home, some property values will decrease as will the town's tax revenues derived from home improvements assessments. General upgrading of older homes, including seismic work, may slow. Ill feelings between neighbors will increase, computing harmony will decrease, lawsuits against the county are a sure bet.

Do we need all this? Like it or not, the current draft, if adopted by the Board of Supervisors, will provide it. Properly written zoning ordinances abound out there that provide for view, light, privacy preservation without abridging homeowners' rights or depressing property values and tax base revenues.

Ordinances are important to any community. They are in effect for a long time and difficult to change. So, if we are going to do this, let's get it right.

Bart Jones  
Architect and Kensington Homeowner

Kensington Community Council continues annual fund drive

The Kensington Community Council thanks the following people for their recent donations to its annual fund drive. The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington’s recreation and education programs and the Kensington Outlook. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please send it the Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington 94707.



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Kensington Outlook

Editor

Daniel S. Levine

editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising Manager

Alma Key

advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

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## State slashes interest rate on WCCUSD loan

*Cut to interest rate could save the district \$6 million over the life of its \$29.5 million loan*

Governor Gray Davis signed legislation at the end of September that lowers the interest rate on a state loan made to the West Contra Costa Unified School District providing \$6 million in projected savings.

The district said it will save more than \$400,000 annually and about \$6 million over the life of the \$29.5 million loan that matures in 2018, according to assemblywoman Loni Hancock's office. Hancock led the effort to get the necessary language into



an assembly bill. Passage of the bill comes after more than a year-long effort by state fiscal trustee Fred Stewart to get the interest rate lowered. "I am very pleased that Governor Davis has agreed with us that the state should not benefit financially on the backs of this district and the children it serves," Stewart said. The district's current interest rate of 5.692 percent is pegged to the 1993 state Pooled Money Investment Account, when original repayment terms were set by legislation that year. Since then, market forces have driven the interest rate lower. Under the new law, West Contra Costa Unified may submit a request to the Department of Finance to change the interest rate to reflect the 2002-03 Pooled Money Investment Account rate of 2.152 percent.

## Woman said cries for help ignored in dog attack

A Kensington woman said people ignored her cries for help when her Scottish terrier was attacked by two dogs during a mid-morning walk.

Janet Warner said her dog Franklin was attacked Oct. 14 on Colgate Ave. by two unsupervised dogs that charged out into the street without warning. Franklin, who was on a leash, froze as the larger of the two dogs - a 60 pound mixed breed - bit him.

Warner was not hurt in the attack, but her dog suffered what she described as a "serious bite" on its left hind quarters. A vet administered emergency care and prescribed antibiotics.

Warner later identified the dogs and filed reports with Contra Costa County Animal Services.

What particularly troubled Warner was

that when her husband returned to the area to see if he could find anyone familiar with the dogs, he encountered at least two residents who said they heard her cries for help and did nothing. They said they thought she had the situation under control.

Warner said she struggled with the dogs for about two minutes and finally was able to scare the dogs back as she screamed and waved her arms before she lifted her dog and ran to her home a few blocks away.

"I'm sure there were others who heard me. I was really screaming to save my dogs life," said Warner. "I would think people would have some sort of compassion and feeling of wanting to help out somebody that is in a predicament. It's a sort of a commentary on what is going on. People just don't really seem to care."

## County moves up date for Kensington road repairs

The Contra Costa County Department of Public Works plans to move up the schedule on the resurfacing of Kensington streets to the Summer of 2004, according to supervisor John Gioia.

Gioia met with the department following concerns from Kensington Community members that the county was not living up to commitments made when residents here passed an

assessment on themselves to fund road repairs. Repair work on streets would occur prior to the resurfacing.

"This will allow the roads to be maintained at a rate that would prevent them from falling into disrepair faster than they could be maintained and put them back in excellent condition," said Gioia.

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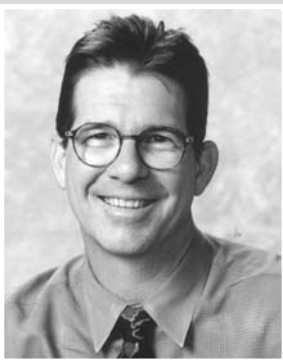
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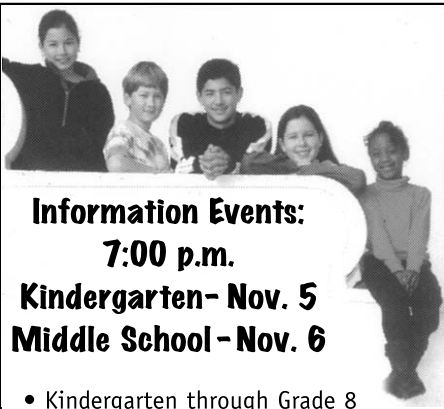
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# Neighborhood Notes

## Gala: Adelman puts the "art" in "party"

*Continued from page 1*

resents the social event of the year.

But the Garden Party also accounts for more than half of the Kensington Education Foundation's annual \$170,000 budget.

This year with continued pressure on finances in Sacramento as well as the budget pressures on the West Contra Costa Unified School District, foundation members say it is more important than ever to bring in money to keep the programs it funds going.

"We're faced with more drastic cutbacks next year and we have the feeling we are going to have to pick up more programs to cover what the district can't" said



KEF's Esther Hill

Esther Hill, president of the Kensington Education Foundation.

In addition to the fine art being offered, auction items range from a day on the Delta with science teacher Jan Lovell to a day in the life of a Tugboat donated by Ted Blanckenburg. There are also getaways including one to Ventana at Big Sur, a ride in the KGO helicopter and the private tasting of reserve wines and a cave tour for six people at the Moon Mountain Vineyard.

The Oakland-based real estate firm Grubb & Co. is underwriting part of the cost of the event this year with a \$3,500 donation.

The Garden Party will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday Nov. 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$45 each by calling Christy Wise at 558-1842 or at the door for \$50 each.

## KCC Presents Gary Lapow at its annual Holiday Party

The Kensington Community Council presents Gary Lapow at its annual holiday party in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. from 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, December 11.

Lapow mixes humor and playful audience participation to engage children from preschoolers through sixth graders. His show is infused with wit as he performs original as well as contemporary and traditional songs in a multicultural winter song festival.

Lapow has performed his songs for millions of children, parents and teachers in both the United States and Canada.

Children are invited to bring a homemade ornament to hang on the center's Christmas tree. Tickets at \$4 each include refresh-



The Infectious Gary Lapow cures the holiday blues

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## Kensington's Rossi weds



The happy couple: Wayne Falk and Cheryl Rossi

Sheila Beeman announced the marriage of her daughter Cheryl Rossi to Wayne Falk of Long Island, N.Y.

The two were married in Minneapolis on August 24th. Cheryl lived in Kensington until she moved to Minneapolis where she works as a chef.

The pair will live in Minneapolis until Wayne completes his post doctorate in Engineering. They then plan on returning to the Bay Area.

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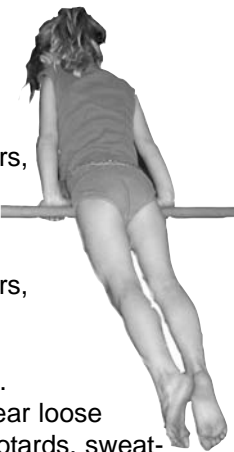
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Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, sweat-pants, or shorts. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail.

**To enroll**  
call Judy Baker at 233-1833.  
**Instructors:** Judy Baker and Jean Jay  
**Session:**  
13 weeks  
September 24 - December 17  
**Fees:**

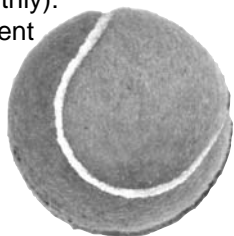


Kindergartners:  
\$140/resident  
\$155/non-resident  
Other students:  
\$125/resident  
\$140/non-resident  
Administration fee: \$25  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Tennis**  
In this class for students in Grades 6,7,and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship. Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play, and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week

**Instructor:**  
Alex Brown 524-5495  
**Session:**  
Tuesdays and/or Thursdays  
3:40-5:00 p.m.

Fees (payable monthly):  
\$10 per class/resident  
\$11 per class/non-resident  
**TENNIS COURTS**



### KASEP WINTER SESSION

Jan. 5 to March 26

Registration for the KASEP winter session will be held in the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., on Tuesday, December 2 at 7 p.m. for kindergarteners, and at 7:15 p.m. for first through sixth graders. Registration packets will go home with Kensington School students on Thursday, November 20, and be available in the Kensington Library and the KCC office on Friday, November 21. Classes will begin on Monday, January 5. For more information call Helen Horowitz at the KCC office.

## Adult Classes

**TENNIS**  
Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.  
**To register**  
Call Alex Brown at (510) 524-5495.  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-10am**  
5 classes/\$40 per resident  
5 classes/\$45 per non-resident  
**TENNIS COURTS**  
(WEST COURT)



**DOG OBEDIENCE**  
Handlers must be at least 14 years of age. Dogs must be at least five months old, have had all their shots, and be accustomed to a leash.  
**Instructor:**  
Nancy Cuccia (510) 234-4500  
**Wednesdays Beginners: 7-8 p.m.**  
Current session started Oct. 16  
Next session starts Jan. 7  
6 weeks/\$36 per resident  
6 weeks/\$40 per non-resident  
8 p.m. - 8:45pm \$4/class  
Intermediate/Advanced:  
9 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. \$4/class  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**ACRYLIC PAINTING**  
Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

**Instructor:**  
Stan Cohen  
Wednesdays, 9:45a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
\$32/month/per resident  
\$36/month/per non-resident  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**EXERCISE TO MUSIC**  
Non-impact aerobics; ongoing.  
**Instructor:**  
Michele Dorntge  
Monday, Tuesdays and Fridays  
9 a.m. -10 a.m.  
\$40/1 x week, \$80/2 x week,  
\$120/3 x week, \$4.50 drop in  
Non-residents add 10 percent  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SUCCESSFUL MARKETING FOR BUSINESS OWNERS**  
Discover how to make your business more successful with easily learned marketing principles. The class will emphasize practical ways of increasing your income and generating a steady flow of clients. Instructor Linda Walker has an MBA in marketing and worked with business owners for more than 17 years. For more information call Linda Walker at 526-7743 or the KCC office to register.  
**Instructor:**  
Linda Walker  
Six Thursday Evenings Oct. 16 - Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4  
\$270 per resident  
\$300 per non-resident  
**Community Center**

**A New Year for Business Owners**  
This class is for business owners who have owned a business for at least one year. We

will be reviewing the past year and creating a strategic plan for the New Year. You will leave with a concrete marketing plan, which will include how to realize your financial goals and ways of obtaining greater personal satisfaction from your work. Walker has worked with business owners for more than 17 years and has an MBA. Call Linda Walker at 526-7743 or the KCC office to register.  
**Instructor:**  
Linda Walker  
Three Thursday evenings  
Jan. 15 - Jan. 29, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
\$135 per resident  
\$150 per non-resident  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**PORTRAIT AND STILL LIFE OIL PAINTING CLASS**  
Beginning and advanced students will paint from live models. For more information or to sign up call Barbara Ward (510) 528-2983. Works by Ward include portraiture, landscape and still life. Ward also offers private classes in oil painting.  
**Instructor:**  
Barbara Ward  
**Portrait**  
Thursdays, 7:00p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
**Still life:**  
Fridays, 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Ongoing -- 8 weeks  
\$200 for residents  
\$220 for non-resident  
**BUILDING E**



## KCC

### Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator  
Kensington Community Council  
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.  
Kensington, CA 94707-1037  
(510) 525-0292

**OFFICE HOURS**  
10:00am to 4:00pm Mon-Fri  
Office closed: Nov. 11, 27 & 28

**NOTICES**  
To register for class call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

**Tennis Court Reservation**  
Reservations are taken for weekends only; the earliest reservation is for 9:00am. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for non-residents.

**Community Center**  
Call the KCC office for rental and reservation information.

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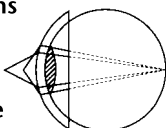


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# Kensington Calendar

**Saturday, November 1**  
**Kensington Improvement Club's Annual Town Hall meeting** featuring Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D.-CA 10th District) 10 a.m. to noon at the Kensington Community Center. Also speaking at the meeting will be supervisor John Gioia, West Contra Costa County Unified School District board member Glen Price, chief of police Barry Garfield and fire chief Mark Scott.

**Sunday, November 2**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Bill Hamilton-Holway, Co-minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley speaks on "The Religion of Democracy" 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Monday, November 3**  
**Community Meeting** regarding priorities for a possible West Contra Costa Unified School District Parcel Tax will be held at 6:45 p.m. in the Pionle Valley High cafeteria at 2900 Pinole Valley Rd. Info: 620-2193

**Monday November 3**  
**Information Literacy: Basic online searching** at the Kensington Library 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 4**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 4**  
**The Kensington study unit of the League of Women Voters**, West Contra Costa County will meet 1 p.m. at the home of Betty Brown, 44 Beverly Road in Kensington. Call 524-6071 to verify time and place.

**Thursday, November 6**  
**The Kensington Senior Activity Center**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Officer Escobar brings a Guest Speaker, once the victim of a robbery. Blood pressure by paramedics, German Conversation Group and Therapeutic Massage by Jessica (\$8, 15 min). Potluck lunch. Bring food for 4-6 people, or pay \$3. Info: 526-9146

**Thursday, November 6**  
**Poetry open mike** featuring storyteller and poet Ananda Esteva and activist and poet Dani Montgomery 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Ave. in Albany. Info: 526-3720 ext 20.

**Saturday November 8**  
**Drop-in Poetry Writing Workshop for grades 4-8** led by Alison Seevak from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Ave. in Albany. Info: 526-3720 ext 20.

**Saturday, November 8**  
**Kensington Education Foundation presents the 20th annual Garden Party.**

**Sunday, November 9**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Author John Buehrens speaks on "Understanding the Bible, a Guide for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals" at 9:30 a.m. at the Untirian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Monday, November 10**  
**Kensington Area Republican Women's Fashion Show** at the Mira Vista Country Club at 7900 Cutting Blvd. in El Cerrito. Social hour at 11:30 a.m. and luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For reservations, call Janice Parker at 526-2221

**Monday November 10**  
**Information Literacy: Introduction to the library catalog:** how to check your library record and request items from other branches at the Kensington Library 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 11**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 11**  
**Where are you on your writer's Journey** with Teresa LeYung Ryan, author of "Love Made of Heart" at 7 p.m. at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave. in Kensington. Sliding scale donation of \$5-\$20 to support Boadecia's, but but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Info: 559-9184

**Wednesday, November 12**  
**Drop-in Poetry Writing Workshop** for all ages led by Alison Seevak from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Ave. in Albany. Info: 526-3720 ext 20.

**Wednesday, November 12**  
**The Kensington Fire Protection District Board** will meet at 7:30 at the Kensington Community Center. Call 527-8395 to confirm.

**Thursday, November 13**  
**The Kensington Senior Activity Center** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Program to be determined. Blood pressure by paramedics, German Conversation Group and Therapeutic Massage by Jessica (\$8, 15 min). Potluck lunch. Bring food for 4-6 people, or pay \$3. Info: 526-9146

**Thursday, November 13**  
**The El Cerrito Garden Club** will hold its regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. This month's meeting is the group's annual fundraiser supporting civic beautification, education and the environment. Floral designers Mary Crowell and Shane Looper will demonstrate flower arranging. Guests welcome, \$5 at the door. Info: 234-0135 or 223-0443.

**Thursday, November 13**  
**The Kensington Senior Activity Center** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Officer Escobar presents Scams and Cons. German conversation Group, Lunch at 12:15 \$3. Info: 526-9146

**Thursday, November 13**  
**Find out about Elderhostel's** nearly 10,000 educational programs in more than 100 countries in a presentation at 2 p.m. at the at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. Info: 745-1499

**Thursday, November 13**  
**Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District** meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 3 of the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-4141 to confirm.

**Friday, November 14**  
**In Love with the Vilion**, a concert and party featuring violinist Donna Lerew and Pianist Skye Atman with narrator Donna Davis at 8 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd in Kensington. Adults \$15, students and seniors \$10. Info: 524-5203

**Sunday, November 16**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Martin Polt, author and leader of "Serious Seekers"



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9:30 a.m.: Adult Classes  
10:45 a.m.: Worship Service  
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# Kensington Calendar Continued

organization speaks on "Symbolism: What does it mean to our religious life?" at 9:30 a.m. at the Untirian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Monday November 17**  
**Information Literacy: How to set up a free e-mail account** at the Kensington Library 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 18**  
**Berkeley Garden Club** presents CityLeaf owners Jeff Small and John Hauser for a talk on Indoor Gardening at the at the Epworth United Methodist Church at 1953 Hopkins St. in Berkeley. Meeting begins at 1 p.m. and the free program at 2 p.m. Info 524-4374.

**Tuesday, November 18**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Thursday, November 20**  
**The Kensington Senior Activity Center** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Linda Sartor, La Italiana, presents Italy thru the Ages. German conversation Group, Lunch at 12:15 \$3. Info: 526-9146

**Saturday, November 22**  
**Special Program on Service Dogs** at the Kensington Library at 11 a.m. Jan Robitscher of Berkeley is a blind woman whose dog Christmas was trained at Guide Services for the Blind, located in Marin County. Talia Geliebter is a teenager confined to a wheelchair, whose dog Coco has been trained to help her. The two women met at a program on guide dogs held at the Kensington Library last May. Info: 524-3043

**Sunday, November 23**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** November 23: Ann Wiser Cornell, author of The Power of Focusing: A Practical Guide to Emotional self-healing, past president of the

Association of Humanist Psychologists: The Wisdom of Vagueness: How you know more than you know. at 9:30 a.m. at the Untirian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Monday November 24**  
**Information Literacy: How to do your own online medical research** at the Kensington Library 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 25**  
**Kensington Municipal Advisory Council** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-5546 to confirm.

**Tuesday, November 25**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, November 25**  
**The El Cerrito Democratic Club** holds a Mini-Presidential Convention at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury, El Cerrito. Democrats in the area are invited to come and learn about the candidates for the Democratic nomination for President. The convention will involve presentations by the various candidates' supporters and debate. ECDC will conduct a straw poll and consider endorsing a presidential candidate. Meeting to consider endorsements for other races at 7:30. Info: 524-2659

**Thursday, November 27**  
**The Kensington Senior Activity Center will be closed for Thanksgiving.**

**Sunday, November 30**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** November 30: Jacques Depelchin, peace activist from the Congo: Working for a Sustainable Peace in the Congo at 9:30 a.m. at the Untirian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

## Obituaries

### Robert O’Brien, one-time baseball player, dies at 89

Robert E. O'Brien, a Kensington resident who once played ball in the Boston Red Sox organization, died September 21 at his home. He was 89.

Born in Hayden, Ariz., O'Brien grew up in Midvale, Utah. He attended St. Mary's College in Moraga and gaduated in 1939. He played baseball with the St. Mary's Gaels and later played in the Boston Red Sox organization.

In 1940, he returned to Utah and married his wife Dorothy. They moved to California where he worked with UNOCAL for 35 years.

O'Brien was active in Kensington commu-

nity affairs for 50 years. He belonged to the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club, Audubon Society and Contra Costomy Association and UNOCAL retirees. He also enjoyed spending summers in Montana at the family cabin on the North Fork of the Flathead River.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, daughter Marian O'Brien and son-in-law Gene Sacich of Salinas, son Dan and daughters Patricia and Erin O'Brien.

The family held private services. Memorial contributions may be made to Montana Nature Conservancy, North Fork Project, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, MT 59601.



### Georgella Perry, former Lab worker, dies at 86

Georgella Perry, a long-time resident of Kensington who worked at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab in an administrative position, died June 15 in at a senior residence in Oakland. She was 86.

Born Sept. 8, 1916, Perry was a native of Arkansas. She was active in many Bar Area organizations including the West Contra

Costa American Association of University Women, the Berkeley Gem and Mineral Society, the Sierra Club and the Berkeley Hiking Club.

Perry was cremated and her remains were taken to her family's burial plot. There will be no memorial services in the Bay Area at her request.



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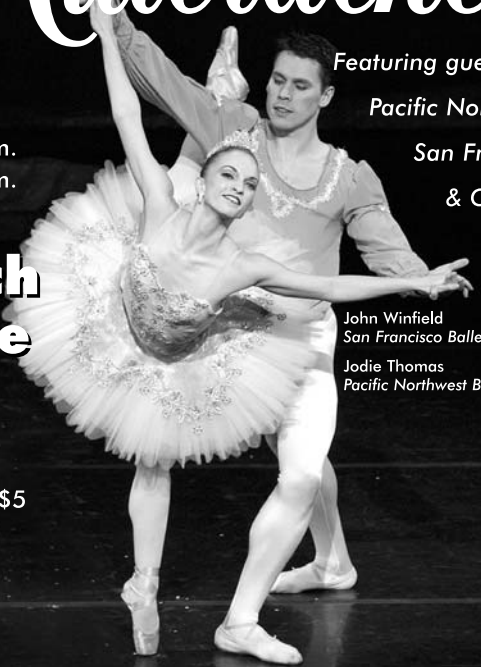
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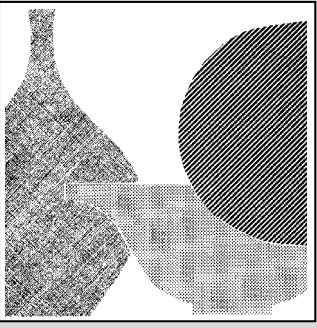
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# From the case files of the KPD

Events in September

○ A business on Arlington Avenue received a counterfeit \$20 bill (the old counterfeit \$20, not the new counterfeit \$20).

○ Police assisted the El Cerrito Fire Department with a child that fell from a play structure at Hilltop school and broke his arm. The child's parent transported him to the hospital.

○ Police found a 1998 Acura Integra on Wellesley Avenue broken into in a failed attempt to steal the vehicle.

○ Police found a 1999 Acura Integra broken into on Cambridge Ave. in a failed attempt to steal it.

○ A Port-O-Potty tipped over on Cambridge, the possible victim of a passing car. No one was inside the structure at the time of tipping.

○ Residents on Anson Way discovered a sliding door to their home removed from its tracks and their bedroom ransacked. They did not report any property missing.

○ Police found a 1980 Acura Integra broken into on Highgate Rd. in a failed attempt to steal it. It is unclear whether there is an inept crook on the loose with a fondness for Acura Integras.

○ A woman reported that someone put a plastic bag with garbage in her garbage can.

○ A Kenyon Ave. resident reported the theft of \$1,110 in property including golf clubs from a 1996 Volvo.

○ Police responded to reports of possible gunshots on Kenilworth Ct. It turned out to be someone hammering on a nearby property.

○ A resident reported the theft of a 1997 Honda Civic valued at \$5,800. The sheriff's department arrested two suspects and recovered the vehicle about an hour later in El Sobrante.

○ Police recovered a 2000 Honda Civic reported stolen from Pleasanton.

○ A Kenyon Ave. resident reported the theft of a 1995 Honda Civic valued at \$5000.

○ A man on Kensington road got into an argument with a neighbor after the man's wife complained of the way a workman at the neighbor's house kept looking at her. By the time they called police, the work was completed and the workman gone.

○ A resident reported a suspicious car parked on Kenyon Ave. at 3 a.m. The vehicle was parked by someone who lives on a nearby street.

○ A resident on York Ave. reported a suspicious vehicle parked with keys hanging out of the door. The car belonged to someone visiting a nearby house. The car owner had been searching for his keys.

○ A business owner discovered that the door to his office was open and the lights on. He discovered two computers valued at \$200 were stolen and that someone had climbed through a small window to enter.

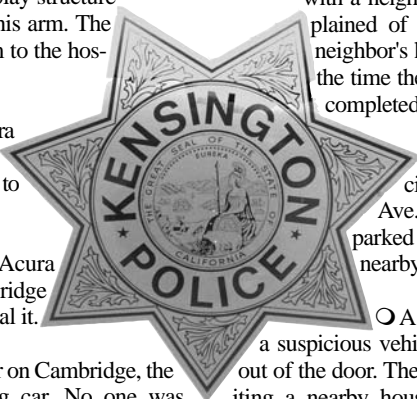
○ The Kensington Community Council office reported discovering graffiti on building E at Kensington Park.

○ The Kensington Hilltop School reported graffiti on its building.

○ A Kenyon Ave. resident reported someone open his unlocked garage door and stole a box of garbage bags.

○ Police stopped a speeding vehicle on Colusa Ave. Its tail lights were out and the driver was not wearing a seat belt. The driver was arrested when police discovered an outstanding felony warrant for drug charges.

○ Police arrested a Kensington resident on Coventry Rd. and Ocean View for DUI after he crashed and injured himself. The man had been on a bicycle. He was also arrested on an outstanding warrant.



## Classified Advertising

ALBANY APTS ON KAINS AVE. Both 2nd floor & small; refrig., elec. stove; laundry on premises. (1) 2BR, carpets: \$1,100/mo. (2) 1BR, hardwood floors: \$795/mo. Call owner, 524-3225.

A-1 APPLIANCE REPAIR master consultant services. Earthquake & Disaster \* Education Program \* Refrigerators \* Freezers \* Garbage Disposals \* Dryers \* Washers \* Dishwashers \* Hot Water Heaters \* Furnaces \* Hot Tubs etc... All brand name appliance installations & repairs. Don, 35 years experience, master repairman 1-800-998-6482, 510-232-3304

VACATION BEACH HOUSE, Big Island of Hawaii, North Kona Coast. Lovely 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, ocean, mountain views, owned by Kensington residents. 527-2009.

MASSAGE-Relax, refresh, rejuvenate, heal. Joan Provencher, CMT, 525-2750.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH. Troubleshooter for hire! Internet making you crazy: Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. References. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

HOME REPAIR EXPERT. Fences, decks, carpentry, tile work, doors and locks, glass and windows, small electrical/plumbing jobs, odd jobs. Local references. Rick, 464-5934.

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR/WRITER. Memoirs, fiction, newsletters, brochures, proof, dissertations, essays, articles. Words Into Print. 236-0919.

MASTER CARPENTER. 30 years experience in home remodeling and renovation: stairs, doors, windows, cabinets, bookcases, trim, drywall, decks, fencing. Framing through finish. Large or small jobs. Local resident George Spilsbury, 525-4051.

DOG WALKS & PET SITS by SAFE HANDS: We make pets smile! Local, friendly, reliable & great references. Bonded, Insured, Licensed. Please call 528-7870 or WWW.SAFEHANDSPETCARE.COM

THE PAINT COMPANY. Highest quality work inside and out. Estimates and consultation are free. Many satisfied local references. Fully insured. License #515120. Call us today at 527-2673.

BRIDGE PAINTING paints houses! Top quality, int/ext, A-1 prep. for lasting finish, Sr. discount, fully ins, Lic. 639300, free est, see display ad inside. 232-3340.

AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING. Interior, exterior, waterproof coatings, wood restoration, color consultation. License #721226. Kensington references. 655-9267 for free estimate.

TOPCOAT PAINTERS. Old world craftsmanship. Custom color mixing, wood finishes, plaster repair. Free decorating service. Interior and exterior. Residential and commercial. Kensington references. License #684698. 525-3444.

HANDYMAN YARD PAINTING Carpenter. Fence, deck, roof, locks, hauling, glass, etc. Bruce 318-4819. MR. MIGHTY MAN HAULING. Clean out/up home, basement, garage. Dump runs. 827-6757.

TWO STRONG WOMEN HAUL-AWAY SERVICE. Pick up, clean out, deliver, recycle almost anything, anytime. Call for Thanksgiving Day Special. Leslie, 235-0122.

ABE'S TREE AND YARD CARE. Trimming, pruning, removals. Weeding, hedge maintenance, clean-up. Large or small jobs. Insured. Local resident. 724-6956.

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES, PERSONAL FINANCE Reasonable rates. Joan Provencher 525-2750.

SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATIONS in peaceful guest suite; kitchen access, privacy, 528-9970. www.geocities.com/hillshomestay/photos.

WINDOW CLEANING: 22 yrs. in the biz. Homes or commercial. Free estimate. Call Cathie at 510-524-9185.

CLARK KELLEY'S CALIFORNIA GARDENS. All phases of landscape construction, plant design irrigation and garden installation. Flagstone and brick patios. Local references License #534467. 869-2788.

MORTENSEN ELECTRICAL. License #423101. Specializing in residential wiring. Honest, bonded and insured. Call John, 527-6711.

HOUSE AND OFFICE CLEANING. Responsible, honest, efficient. Excellent work. Good references. I've worked in the area 6 years. Please call 524-7787.

KENSINGTON HILLTOP SCHOOL TEACHER wants to rent room. Will do basic home and yard work. Jim (209) 613-0175.

HANDYMAN: winterize, repair, build, elec.,plumb., roofing, gutter clean, de-pest, etc. Lee, 525-1945.

PAULA'S PET CARE. Vacation/daily pet care. Bonded, insured, reliable. Experienced 558-9191.

Classified ad forms are now available online at [www.kensingtonoutlook.com](http://www.kensingtonoutlook.com) or at the Kensington Outlook office, 59 Arlington Ave. All ads must be submitted with an outlook classified ad form and received with payment by the tenth of the month prior to the issue in which they are to appear. Monthly Rate \$6 per line (\$12 minimum). There are 45 spaces per line. Forms and payments should be delivered to Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707

## Prospect Sierra School



Developing heart, mind and community...

**Elementary School (K-4)**  
Information Events for Parents & Guardians  
Sunday, Nov. 2, 12:45-3:00 p.m.  
2060 Tapscott Ave., El Cerrito

**Middle School (5-8)**  
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Dedicated Teachers • Project-based Learning  
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www.prospectsierra.org

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